

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Chief Joseph Honored

On Sunday, October 4, 1931, a beautiful bronze tablet was placed upon a huge boulder at the spot where Chief Joseph, the Nez Perce, surrendered to Colonel Nelson A. Miles on October 5, 1877. The monument is about fifteen miles south of Chinook, Montana. The *Chinook Opinion*, on October 8, carried a front-page story of three columns giving details of the ceremony.

The bronze tablet, four feet tall and three feet wide, was sculptured by Mrs. Jessie S. Lincoln of Great Falls and the boulder was furnished by George Grover of the same city. The full-length figures of Chief Joseph and Colonel Miles are clothed in the costumes of 1877. At the upper rim of the plaque are Chief Joseph's memorable words: "From where the Sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."

At the lower edge are these words: "October 5, 1877. Surrender of Chief Joseph to Colonel Nelson A. Miles. To the valor and devotion of those, both red and white, who struggled here. Erected by the Congress of the United States, under the authority of an act approved April 15, 1930."

Revival of Interest in Heceta

The *Sunday Oregonian* for September 20, 1931, contains a carefully illustrated article entitled "Heceta's Chart Ends Long Dispute." The article is by J. Neilson Barry of Portland, Oregon, who has devoted much study and research to its preparation.

A copy of the chart made by Captain Bruno Heceta in 1775 was recently obtained from Spain by the Library of Congress. Mr. Barry obtained a photostat of that copy and made it the base of his illustrations, adding the United States Coast and Geodetic charts and an extensive air view photograph by the Brubaker Aerial Surveys.

From this important evidence and from painstaking studies of published and manuscript records, he seeks to settle the long disputes by historians and diplomats. He believes he has demonstrated the fact that Heceta was first to observe the mouth of the great river and that he (Heceta) was convinced that a large river emptied into the ocean at that place. No claim is made that Heceta entered the river. In fact, Mr. Barry is careful to save that glory for the American, Captain Robert Gray, as follows:

"Fortunately there is obtainable a sketch of the appearance of the entrance to the river in 1792, so that with it and Heceta's chart it is possible to ascertain just what was known previously to the triumphant accomplishment of Gray in crossing a bar which no white man had ever before been able to cross. That remarkable and daring feat is an honor which has never been disputed, and the name he gave to the clear fresh water which he was the first to navigate will forever commemorate his brave act and his staunch little ship, the *Columbia Rediviva*. All honor and fame be to him for having succeeded where all others had failed."

Honoring Pioneers of Southwest Washington

At the annual picnic of the Southwest Washington Pioneers' Association in August, 1931, Historian N. B. Coffman gave his customary review including the biographies of three outstanding pioneers who had passed away during the year. Selections for such honors are made annually by the Association, the choice being limited to those who were pioneers when the Territory of Washington was organized in 1853. Those included in this year's honors were as follows :

"Anna Rachel Grey Urquhart, wife of William Muir Urquhart, pioneer merchant of Chehalis.

"Christopher Columbus Simmons, a son of that earliest of Western Washington American home-seekers, Michael Troutman Simmons.

"William Mills, son of Elkanah and Elvina V. Mills, brother of Mary Jane Brown, queen-mother of Southwest Washington pioneers."

The *Chehalis Bee-Nugget* for August 21 and 28 carried Mr. Coffman's report in full. Those issues are well worth saving for their historic values.

Geographic Names Decisions

Two reports, Numbers 8 and 9, by the United States Geographic Board resulted from the meeting of June 3, 1931. One was devoted wholly to decisions as to names in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. This is in line with the work of recent years in clearing up confusions and duplications in our National Parks.

The other report records fifteen decisions for Alaska, one for California, two for Washington, and six for Wyoming. Readers of this publication are most interested in those for Washington.